

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: MONTANA
GRANT TITLE: Loon Ecology Project
AGREEMENT: T - 10 - 2
PERIOD COVERED: January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005

Objective

The objective of this project is to determine habitat and population characteristics and the migration/winter locations for common loons, a species of special concern, breeding or migrating through northwest Montana, including the Flathead Indian Reservation. This information will be used to revise and update the Common Loon Conservation Plan for Montana outside of Glacier National Park.

Location

The project was conducted in northwest Montana from the Blackfoot and Clearwater drainages west to the Idaho border and north to the Canada border. This project included information from common loons using Glacier National Park; that data collection is coordinated through the Common Loon Working Group and was gathered by staff and volunteers working for the Park. The expanded project also includes the study of migratory loons using the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Accomplishments

- Captured and banded a total of 17 adults and 22 juvenile common loons during the summer of 2005 bringing the project total to 108 banded birds in the marked population.
- FWP's partner, the Confederate Salish and Kootenai Tribes, successfully captured, banded, and implanted ARGOS satellite radio transmitters in 4 adult common loons using the south end of Flathead Lake in October 2005. All migration information is being captured and placed in real time on seaturtle.org website (<http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking>). Currently, all 4 birds are in the southwest U.S. or in the Sea of Cortez. See attached map for recent tracking activity.
- Sent 2005 biological samples (blood, feathers, and eggs) to BioDiversity Research Institute (BRI), Gorham ME, a non-profit research group focused on avian conservation and aquatic toxicology (<http://www.briloan.org>). This organization has been investigating common loons and other higher trophic level piscivorous wildlife as vital indications of aquatic integrity for many years. Results for 2005 are not yet back.
- Obtained recovery information for 4 banded common loons. One common loon banded as a juvenile in 1997 was collected in June on a small lake within the Flathead Indian Reservation less than 10 miles from its natal area. An adult male common loon banded on Thompson Chain of Lakes in 2003 was found dead near

Newport Oregon in November 2005. An adult female from Upper Stillwater Lake was collected off the coast of Washington in March 2005. Lastly, a juvenile loon banded in 2004 from North Seeley was found dead near Santa Barbara in June 2005.

- Completed new contract with University of Montana to continue phase 2 of the Loon Ecology Project and selected new graduate student to do the work.

Variances

None to report.

Expenditure Recap:

Proposed:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	88,004.00		29,334.67		117,338.67
Indirect Costs	15,752.72		5,250.91		21,003.29
Total	103,756.72	75.0%	34,585.57	25.0%	138,342.29

Current Expenditures:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	46,786.73		18,449.19		65,235.92
Indirect Costs	8,421.28				8,421.28
Total	55,208.01	75.0%	18,449.19	25.0%	73,657.20

Current Expenditures:

Contracts – CSKT & BioDiversity	14,713.70
Grad Student & Asst. Salaries	20,691.66
Per Diem	1,225.00
Supplies	2,400.17
Travel	5,962.16
Other Expenses	605.05
Equipment Maintenance	1,188.99
Total	\$ 46,786.73

Match:

Cash	1,631.19
In-Kind	16,818.00
Total	18,449.19

Project Personnel

Name	Title	Phone	Email
Gael Bissell	Wildlife Biologist, Kalispell	406-751-4580	gbissell@mt.gov
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